

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 DHA-02 USSS-00 SY-05 OPR-02

A-01 /060 W

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O R 240953Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1055

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: REPORTED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON MENGISTU

SUMMARY: AMHAIRC RADIO ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 24 THAT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUS EVENING ON LIFE OF PMAC FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM, AS HE AND OTHERS WERE RETURNING HOME FROM WORK BY CAR. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY REPORT, ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT MAY BE RELATED TO SHOOTING-BOMBING INCIDENT LAST NIGHT NEAR REVOLUTION SQUARE. END SUMMARY.

1. EYEWITNESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRING BROKE OUT NEAR FOOTBALL STADIUM AT 2025 HOURS FROM TWO CIVILIAN AUTOMOBILES, ONE PARKED AND ONE MOVING WEST FROM REVOLUTION SQUARE. LATTER FIRED IN AIR FROM BOTH SIDES OF CAR FOR SEVERAL BLOCKS, BEFORE TURNING SOUTH PAST FOURTH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS. SHORTLY AFTER MOVING CAR DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT, LOUD EXPLOSION WAS HEARD, FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER MORE POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE

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CHARGE FARTHER DOWN ROAD FEW MINUTES LATER. THERE WERE

FEW PERSONS OR CARS ON STREET, AND NO CASUALTIES WERE OBSERVED, EXCEPT FOR ONE TAXI DRIVER WHOSE CAB WAS HIT. NUMEROUS SHOP WINDOWS WERE BROKEN BY SHOOTING.

2. FOLLOWING INCIDENT, EPMG SET UP ROAD BLOCKS AT ALL PRINCIPAL INTERSECTIONS SURROUNDING AREA OF INCIDENT. ALL TRAFFIC WAS STOPPED, PASSENGERS REQUIRED TO LEAVE VEHICLES, AND VEHICLES WERE THOROUGHLY SEARCHED. ROADBLOCKS WERE WITHDRAWN THIS MORNING, HOWEVER; THUS FAR ADDIS IS QUIET. WE HAVE HAD NO REPORTS OF NEW DISTURBANCES. TODAY WAS PROCLAIMED END OF RAMADAN HOLIDAY LAST EVENING, AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS ARE CLOSED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT ON MENGISTU PROVIDED NO DETAILS, OTHER THAN THAT HE AND OTHER OCCUPANTS OF CAR WERE UNHARMED. AWAITING MIDDAY BROADCAST FOR NEWS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, IF ANY, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, EXPLOSIVES, THREATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ADDIS10506  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760360-1141  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON MENGISTU SUMMARY: AMHAIRC RADIO ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 24 THAT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUS EVENING ON LIFE OF  
**TAGS:** PINT, ET, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006